

April 21, 1999

FDA Commissioner
FDA
5600 Fishers lane, Rm. 14-71
Rockville MD 20857
Attn: Jane Henney

1458 '99 JUN -9 A10:20

Dear Mrs. Henney:

After reading a newsletter from the HFA , I am totally disgusted and nauseous to find the way they are slaughtering animals (not to mention- killing them in the first place). The manner that they are permitted to be skinned, dismembered or scalded while still conscious! Plant workers have been quoted that they " often find themselves resorting to unbelievable brutality to keep production lines moving". How can your stomach not do "flip-flops", hearing this, don't you feel sick? I also quote the HDA which states in an article that workers state they "sometimes use **stun guns** which frequently fail to knock out the animals". I am enclosing a copy of the article in which I am referring to. Also, please do **everything** possible, within your power to put an end to the feeding of dead pigs, horses and other animals to other farm animals, as most of these farm animals are not "meat eaters" by nature.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Dawn Sullivan
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creates the same problems.

British mad cow disease (BSE) appeared in the mid-1980s. It quickly spread from just a few animals to infect hundreds of thousands.

By 1988, this disease was linked to feeding rendered animal by-products to livestock. British cattle were consuming the remains of sheep, cattle, and other animals deemed unfit for human consumption.

Despite the British outbreak, the dangerous practice of feeding rendered meat and bonemeal to livestock has been widely practiced in the U.S., where no meaningful restrictions were even attempted until August 1997.

Today, the U.S. still allows practices that should be banned, such as feeding pigs to pigs, pigs to cattle, and

CJD also exists in the U.S., but it is unclear at what level. Most CJD here is considered "sporadic" with an unknown cause. However, the U.S. has a large population of persons with various dementia diseases, the most often diagnosed being Alzheimer's (four million cases). And studies of people in the U.S. who have died of dementia suggest much higher levels of CJD than commonly suspected.

Unlike virtually all other diseases, including AIDS, where the infectious agent can be detected in the early stages of the incubation process, doctors are unable to determine if a person is infected with TSE until right before symptoms occur.

Currently, federal agencies do not even require state health officials to report TSE cases. ■

**SUMMARY OF HFA'S PETITION TO THE
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)**

In its first petition, HFA demands that:

- Blood and blood products from all mammals, including pigs and cows, must be prohibited for use in animal feed and pet foods.
- Gelatin and gelatin by-products must not be used in animal feed, as gelatin might carry infectious agents.
- Porcine materials must not be used in animal feed because U.S. pigs are known to have exhibited symptoms of central nervous system disease suspected as being TSE and have proven susceptible to TSE in laboratory tests.
- TSE-positive material absolutely *must not* be fed to any animals or be used in cosmetics, fertilizer or other products.

cattle blood products to calves. These practices are allowed despite suggestive evidence that TSE disease may already infect pigs, cattle, and squirrels and despite the existence of proven TSEs in sheep, deer, elk, and mink.

To date, 33 human beings have died from new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (nvCJD), apparently contracted from cattle infected with BSE. How many more will die is uncertain.

Due to the long incubation period, it will be many years before the extent of the disease and deaths are determined. Estimates now range from dozens to hundreds of thousands of eventual deaths from nvCJD in Britain.

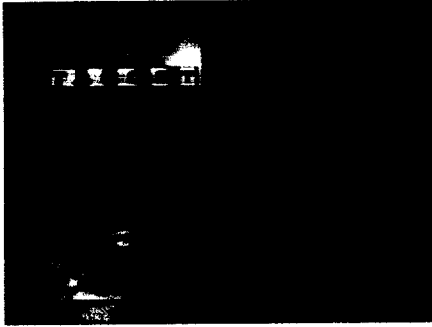
**SUMMARY OF HFA'S PETITION TO THE
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC)**

HFA's second petition demands that the CDC:

- Initiate a significant epidemiological investigation to determine the incidence of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies among the human population of the U.S.
- Develop an ongoing national monitoring and registry program utilizing autopsy examinations to determine any changes in the incidence of CJD-like diseases among the human population of the U.S.
- Direct all state medical officers to engage in a reporting process, similar to the reporting requirements of other infectious and transmissible diseases, to the CDC for the purpose of establishing a national cumulative database and reporting system.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Slaughterhouse Shockwaves



HFA's landmark book *Slaughterhouse* is awakening a new generation of Americans to the abuses perpetuated by the U.S. meat-packing industry.

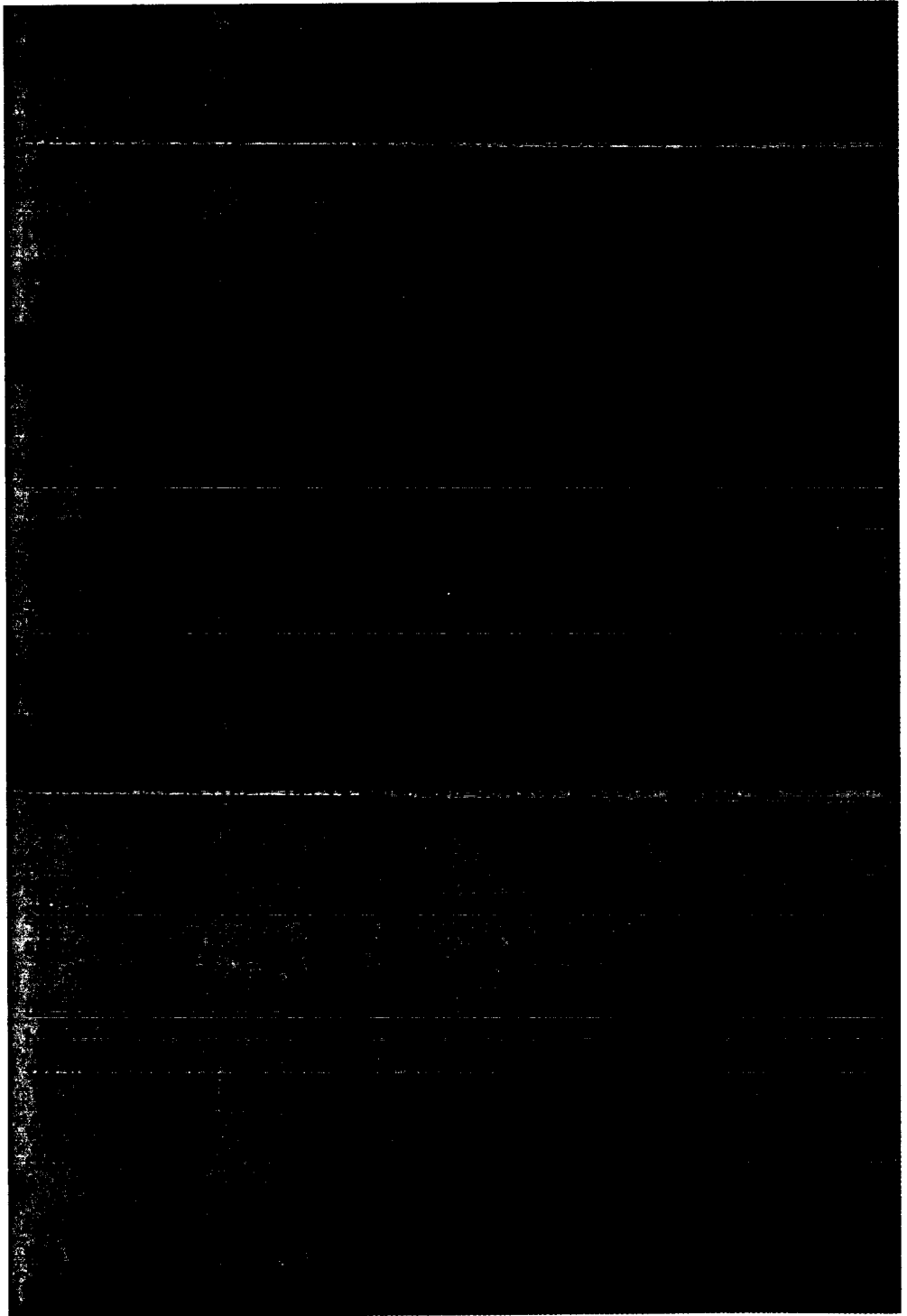
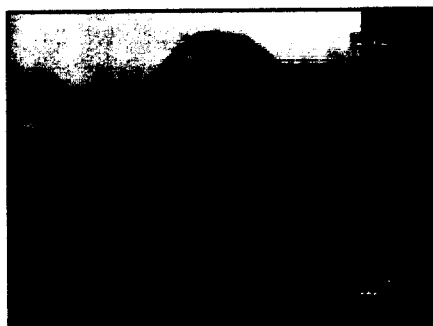
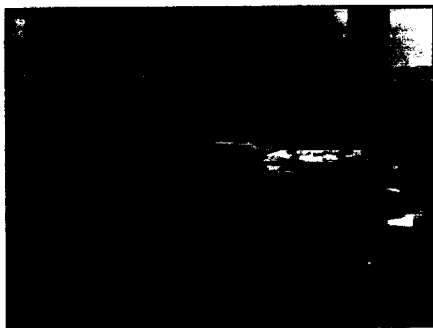
Slaughterhouse has quickly become *the* authoritative reference for anyone interested in the treatment of farm animals. The news media are broadcasting HFA's findings, members of Congress have called for federal reforms — even President Clinton's cabinet member, USDA Secretary Dan Glickman, has stated the book is being carefully read by government officials and meat inspectors.

HFA is currently working hard not only to educate people — but also to *halt* the abuses we have so carefully documented. ■

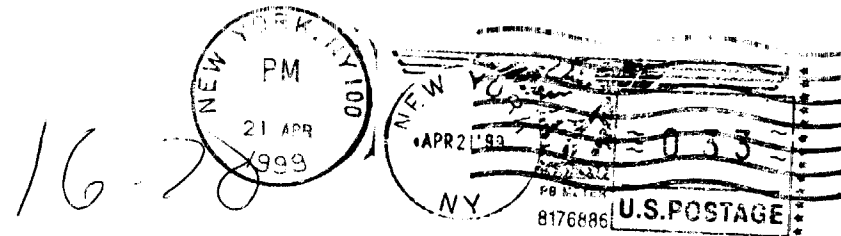


HFA's groundbreaking investigative exposé, Slaughterhouse, by Chief Investigator Gail Eisnitz, is awakening millions. Above, the explosive work is the feature story on national television.

USDA Secretary Dan Glickman on the hot seat — here being questioned about HFA's Slaughterhouse. Glickman concedes that enforcement of the Humane Slaughter Act is almost nonexistent.



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16-28
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